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Letter dated 16 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 15 April 1999, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plûmer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 15 April 1999 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 12, 22, 24 and 29 March 1999 (A/53/864-S/1999/283, A/53/871-S/1999/310, A/53/874-S/1999/321 and A/53/887-S/1999/355, respectively), addressed to you by Greek Cypriot representatives at the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic".

I would like to recall that similar charges on so-called "airspace violations" were rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 8 March 1999 (A/53/858-S/1999/256). It would suffice to say that flights within the sovereign airspace and flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State over which the imposter regime in the South has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever.

I would like to emphasize that this kind of politically motivated propaganda and misrepresentation of facts does not serve the cause of peace and reconciliation in the island. Ever since the forcible usurpation of the seat of government in 1963 and the massive attacks on defenceless Turkish Cypriots throughout the island, the Greek Cypriot side has sought to consolidate itself as the so-called "sole sovereign authority" on the island. Over the years the Greek-Greek Cypriot camp have exacerbated the situation in the region with policies aimed at isolating the Turkish Cypriot people from the rest of the international community through an array of inhuman embargoes and restrictions; securing the unilateral accession of the Greek Cypriot administration into the European Union; and the implementation of the joint military doctrine which has effectively converted South Cyprus into a military outpost of Greece.

In the circumstances of Cyprus, the only realistic and viable framework for the peaceful coexistence of the two peoples is a confederal partnership settlement on the basis of two sovereign States. If the Greek Cypriot side is genuinely interested in an amicable and lasting settlement it should desist from perpetuating the myth that it is the sole sovereign authority on the island, abandon its policy of escalation and tension, and begin taking steps in the direction of establishing trust and confidence in the island without any delay.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus